



NEWS RELEASE
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Industry leaders honored during 2016 Celebration of Agriculture

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 18, 2016) — [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) Director Ted McKinney presented the 2016 AgriVision Award to Dr. Bret Marsh of the Indiana [State Board of Animal Health](#) (BOAH) and John Hardin, an Indiana farmer and Vice Chair of [American Farmland Trust](#), during the Celebration of Agriculture at the Indiana State Fair. In its tenth year, the award is given to Hoosiers who have demonstrated exemplary leadership to maximize the potential of Indiana agriculture.

“Bret Marsh and John Hardin represent the very best of Indiana agriculture. We would not be where we are today as an industry without their vision, leadership and drive. I can't think of two individuals more deserving to receive this prestigious award,” Director McKinney said.

Dr. Marsh was appointed in 1994 and serves as the Indiana State Veterinarian of BOAH. During his career, he has successfully promulgated laws to improve Indiana's animal health programs and negotiated the hiring of specialized personnel to provide more effective and efficient service to Hoosiers.

Notably, Dr. Marsh led the response effort earlier this year to contain the spread and eradicate the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in southwestern Indiana. Due to his leadership, the quick response by BOAH and the strong collaboration between the industry, as well as many governmental agencies, the state was able to achieve avian influenza-free status and even set policy for response when dealing with large animal health emergencies.

Hardin is the Vice Chair of the American Farmland Trust Board of Directors and owner of Hardin Farms, a grain and pork operation located 25 miles west of Indianapolis. He is a trustee of the Farm Foundation, past President of the National Pork Producers Council and past chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, just to name a few of his leadership roles.

In his 24 years of service as a Purdue University Trustee, Hardin chaired the Finance, Academic Affairs, and Audit and Insurance committees and has been a consistent advocate for smart growth in agriculture; reducing the amount of farmland converted for development; and enhancing the productivity and environmental performance of America's remaining working lands.

Purdue Extension Women in Agriculture Award

The 2016 [Purdue Extension Women in Agriculture](#) awards were also presented at the Celebration of Agriculture. This year, the Leadership Award, which recognizes women in policymaking and agribusiness, was presented to Lisa Chaudion of the Indiana FFA Foundation. The Achievement Award, recognizing women in farming operations, was presented to Sheryl Seib, owner and operator of Seib Farm in Poseyville, Ind.

“It's a distinct pleasure for Purdue Extension to spotlight women who are committed to the success of

Indiana agriculture,” said Jason Henderson, Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Director of Purdue Extension. “These women are hard-working and dedicated to their communities and the industry.”

Chaudion is the Director of the [Indiana FFA Foundation](#) and was first female president of the Indiana FFA Association in 1985. Under her leadership, the foundation has made strides to benefit Indiana's student leaders and raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. In addition to many other accomplishments, she also partnered with Heifer International's “Read to Feed” initiative, which raises awareness of international agribusiness among elementary students.

Her belief in agriculture and foresight has allowed her to develop and grow the future leaders of the agriculture community. Chaudion serves as a positive example of hard work and dedication to over 11,856 student-members of Indiana FFA.

Seib is an owner and operator of Seib Farm and has been an integral part of the day-to-day operations since 1979. She was selected by Indiana Farm Bureau in 1992 to serve as an Agriculture Cultural Exchange Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. A decade later she took her passion and desire to learn about agriculture to Ukraine where she was the U.S Department of Agriculture's liaison to Ukraine's Farm Women, helping establish a co-op that still runs today.

In 2009, she became the first female president for Posey County Farm Bureau and held her position until 2014. Then, she became the Education and Outreach Coordinator with the State Women's Leadership Committee for Indiana Farm Bureau, serving District 9.

2016 ISDA Photo Contest

Winners of the [2016 ISDA Photo Contest](#) were also announced during the Celebration of Agriculture, whose photos will be featured in the Offices of the Lt. Governor's Family of Business in Indianapolis. The contest, now in its ninth year, was created to showcase the hard work and contributions made by Hoosier farmers.

Below are the winners for 2016. Their photos can be found by clicking [here](#):

Conservation

- “Sunrise over Richart Lake” by Ryan Jeske of Carmel, IN
- “Rocky Hollow Waterfall” by Ronald Reuter of Bedford, IN

On the Farm

- “Reap the Seeds You Sow” by Kristen Daily of Elizabethtown, IN
- “Montgomery Dairy Barn” by Eric DiBlasi, Jr. of Seymour, IN

Faces of Agriculture

- “Pure Joy” by Jennifer Crague of Aurora, IN
- “Little Farmer” by Bailey Warren of Rochester, IN

Agritourism

- “Cheese Farmers” by Lee Ann T. Eizinger of North Rochester, IN
- “The Lilacs” by Lauren R. Cooper of Walton, IN

Overall

- “Pollinator” by Jennifer M. Hughes of Monticello, IN
- “Pollinator” by Myra Kivett of Fishers, IN

For more information about the AgriVision Award or the 2016 ISDA Photo Contest, please visit www.isda.in.gov. For more information about Purdue Extension or the Purdue Extension Women in Agriculture Award, please visit www.extension.purdue.edu

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ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](http://www.isda.in.gov) (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to [Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb](#), who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.



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